



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **NEVADA MAN CONVICTED OF SELLING CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES --INCLUDING RAPE DRUG-- OVER THE INTERNET**

*ICE Cyber Crimes Center plays major role in cracking case*

LAS VEGAS – A Las Vegas man convicted of running an Internet business that illegally sold prescription drugs and controlled substances faces up to 20 years in prison and \$17 million in fines as a result of an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the Food and Drug Administration.

Christian Frederic Finze, 46, a resident of Las Vegas and Germany, was convicted by a jury last week on 17 felony counts, including conspiracy to defraud the United States, conspiracy to commit various drug offenses, and money laundering.

Finze's sentencing is scheduled for January 28, 2005.

"Unlicensed operators who peddle controlled substances pose a serious threat to our communities," said Stephen Usiak, ICE resident agent-in-charge in Las Vegas. "Using the resources of ICE's Cyber Crimes Center and other law enforcement tools, we're committed to dismantling these schemes and protecting the nation's consumers."

James Plitt, the unit chief of the ICE Cyber Crimes Center, added, "This investigation demonstrates that the Internet has brought modern-day drug dealers into America's homes via their personal computers. Addictive and life-threatening drugs are readily available in cyberspace at the click of a button. To combat this menace, ICE and the FDA have developed special operations that target Internet distribution of controlled substances and counterfeit prescription drugs."

Finze and co-defendant Joan Davis, aka "Joan Smith," also of Las Vegas, were originally indicted on various counts of conspiracy, distribution and importation of controlled substances. The indictment was later amended to include making false writings to a U.S. agency and money laundering. Davis pleaded guilty to Conspiracy to Defraud the United States and was sentenced to 37 months in prison.

According to court documents, from October 1998 to May 2002, Finze distributed prescription drugs over an Internet business known as the “*Vince-Online*” Web site and “*Vinci American, Ltd.*”

Finze set up a German-based company called CFF Pharma Consult to ship drugs from Europe to customers in the United States. The shipments included more than 7,000 units of Flunitrazepam, a drug that rapists slip to their potential victims in order to subdue them. Flunitrazepam is not approved for manufacture or distribution in the United States.

Finze’s role in the conspiracy included processing drug orders, ordering drugs from suppliers in Germany, arranging for CFF Pharma Consult to ship the drugs from Germany to customers in the U.S., and incorporating and serving as the officer and director of Vinci American, Ltd. and CFF Pharma Consult. The drugs were shipped from Germany to the United States using forged and fraudulent documents designed to deceive government authorities.

In addition to ICE, the Food and Drug Administration Office of Criminal Investigation participated in the investigation.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.*